

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 2, Folder 20

October 12, 1955 -
December 30, 1955

0741

12 October 1955

Dear Red:

I told you sometime ago that I was presently going to "take the bull by the horns" and write you a letter to congratulate you upon your recent promotion to Rear Admiral.

Very frankly, I couldn't have been more delighted to see that you were numbered among the chosen few. I knew, when I had you and Bim Graf on the BUCHANAN, that you both were "top boys" and, other things being equal, would arrive at the top. Now you have done so.

I certainly hope that in the future you will be able to instill in your Captains the same high factors of leadership and command which have made you so successful in your own commands.

I will presently be in Washington on other matters and I shall drop in to render honors where honors are due.

With best regards to you and to yours Mrs., who, of course, is as delighted as you are, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral H.A. Yeager, USN
Asst Chief of Naval Personnel
Navy Department
Washington 25, D.C.

0742

October 14, 1955

Dear Cat:

I note, with a great deal of interest and satisfaction, that your orders have been issued today and that you are to be Deputy CinCLantFlt and Chief of Staff and Aide to CinCLantFlt.

Very frankly, I had known about this for some time but I did not choose to write until the matter had become fully official. It is a satisfaction to me, in particular, to note that an officer, who has studied war so long and as effectively as you have and who has occupied many positions of trust, should be finally recognized and given an opportunity to put into operation, as well as into fleet planning, the concepts of war, etc., which he had developed throughout the years.

In my opinion, you are about the first Chief of Staff, in either fleet, who has made a study of war in the full sense and, therefore, I feel sure that your presence in this new assignment cannot but be of value to the Navy. I also am gratified to note that a former Chief of Staff of this college is moving into higher and higher positions. I will never feel fully satisfied until all commands are filled with officers not only trained in operations but equally trained in the general conduct of war.

With best regards to yourself and to your beloved wife, who I have always felt was quite a friend of mine, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral Charles R. Brown, USN
Joint Strategic Survey Committee
Joint Chiefs of Staff
Washington 25, D.C.

0743

October 14, 1955

Dear Margaret and Harry:

Although perhaps I have been delayed a few days in writing to you to acknowledge my good fortune in having been your dinner guest during my recent stay at Annapolis, I want you to know that it is due to the fact that my whole office has been shifted and rebuilt. Now that we are settled, I feel that I have an opportunity to write to my old friends.

I want you both to know that I enjoyed myself very much at your house. I have had an affection for both of you over many years and I feel that I have been as interested in your welfare as I have been in my own. It was, therefore, with considerable interest that I noted that you, Harry, referred to the fact that you were my "pred". I have always been proud of this but I can assure you that I didn't "push you out" as you said; instead, I merely filled the gap, no matter how inadequately.

I had wished to return to your home prior to my departure from Annapolis but my responsibilities became too hectic. One thing I had to do was to discover the Pringle grave. I went twice to the graveyard -- once in the pouring rain; I asked the hospital; I asked Public Works, and no one knew its whereabouts. Now, it appears that my automobile was apparently parked right over the grave and that my searches were beyond the zone of basic operations.

I have been very pleased, of course, to note the continued success of the Navy football team which, as you know, got its

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October 14, 1955

first basic postwar start under you, Harry, as Superintendent of the Naval Academy, and under you, Margaret, who I know had a controlling influence in this matter.

Finally, I want to say what a satisfaction it was to hear the wonderful remarks I heard about you as Superintendent of the Naval Academy. When officers of the rank of Captain say that there have only been two good Superintendents of the Naval Academy since WW I, i.e., Henry B. Wilson and Harry W. Hill, I know that I am traveling in good company.

With best regards to you both and with many thanks for your kindnesses to me, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral Harry W. Hill, USN(Ret)
206 King George Street
Annapolis, Md.

0745

October 18, 1955

Dear Barbara:

I was pleased to receive your note relative to the cabaret but I have delayed in replying to it until I could discuss it a little more fully with others. I haven't heard any opposition to the idea, although that does not mean that there might not be some.

This is the idea: To establish a tentative table arrangement for the officers' club -- to number the tables -- and then to draw lots for the tables. By this, I mean to say that at each table there will probably be what we can term a "table captain" who will be invited to the drawing. The table captain would be a representative chosen by the group who plan to sit with him. The table captain should present to the committee prior to the drawing the number of people to be at his table. If this is done, everyone should be satisfied because a drawing is a matter of luck and luck may or may not favor them.

Heretofore, there has been a rush for cabaret tables, commencing in the afternoon. Those who arrived early would wait at the door so that they could move in and grab the best table in the place when the dining room was opened. I personally have not approved of this because I have felt that a lot of people, owing to home problems, in all probability could not get there at the early hour required. It might be wise to hold certain tables for people not attending in groups, these tables also to be determined in the draw.

With best regards and with hopes that you enjoyed your trip to northern New England and Canada, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. T.H. Robbins

0746

October 19, 1955

Dear Captain Nutting:

In accordance with my letter of 12 October, I am now able to inform you that I expect to be in Washington the week commencing October 31st. On this day, October 31st, I am to be present at the final viewing of the film, Battle of Savo Island, which, as you perhaps know, has taken two years to make.

It is a tremendous picture, even though I say so myself. It takes almost three hours to show it. This is because the number of errors made by both sides, but notably by the Allied side, were so great as to require attention. I suggest that you see this film when it is released.

As I mentioned to you before, the film, which is Confidential, is so full of criticism of command that I think that it should not be released for general showing on shipboard. It should, instead, be employed for the education of officers and shown in the wardroom. A study of the book, Battle of Savo Island, should precede the showing of any part of the film. As you know, the film is made in parts for this very purpose.

Once again, let me congratulate you on your advancement to be the head of that important section, Education and Training. With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Captain K. L. Nutting, USN
Room 3074,
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Navy Department
Washington 25, D.C.

0747

21 October 1955

Dear Admiral Duncan:

It was very pleasant to talk with you on the telephone the other day, even though the subject was not entirely pleasant. I was interested to note, from these discussions, that you were planning two months in advance for an event which you know or have reason to believe will occur. If you don't mind, I should like to tell you how interested I am in this because I feel that many naval officers don't understand planning and are, therefore, forced to make decisions when relatively unprepared.

Admiral McCormick showed me a letter which he had written relative to my assignment here and, in my personal view, the letter is sound. It seems to be preferable, for the reasons given by Admiral McCormick, that I be in uniform, rather than under contract.

I don't know exactly what the high command is thinking today of historical analyses, but I do know that Admiral Carney stated just before he retired that my studies were of great consequence and would be studied in the future by many students, both military and otherwise. At least, that is, in general, the inference I gained from his comments.

I was glad to receive his support. As a matter of interest, I have always received support from the Presidents of the Naval War College as well as from many other senior officers. In fact, only the other day I saw Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter in New York, and I asked him if he had received Volume II of the Battle for Leyte Gulf; he said "No" and that he was very anxious to get it because he considered Volume I "marvelous".

I promptly notified the Bureau of Naval Personnel that something was amiss with the distribution system. I hope that it is now in hand.

0748

21 October 1955

I am planning to be in Washington for about three or four days of the week commencing October 31st. On Monday, October 31st, I will be present at the review, at the Naval Photographic Center, of the last part of the film, Battle of Savo Island. This film parallels the book, Battle of Savo Island, and is in great detail. Because the mistakes on both sides were numerous, the film is rather long - about three hours. Over the past two years, as each part was completed, it was shown here at the Naval War College and caused almost a sensation. The students and staff would ask, "When will we see the next part? Will we see it before we graduate or are detached?" Unfortunately, many of them did not see the completed film.

Upon my arrival in Washington, I shall communicate with your office to learn when I am to have the privilege of speaking with you. Needless to say, this is an event which I always cherish as I benefit greatly from it.

When in Washington, I hope to learn that you are to remain as Vice Chief of Naval Operations or, if not, that you are to take an assignment equal to your capabilities; notably, a fleet. I certainly hope that you are not planning to retire. That would be bad for the Navy!

With best regards to you, and with deep appreciation of your continuing support, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral Donald B. Duncan, U.S. Navy
Vice Chief of Naval Operations
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D.C.

0749

October 26, 1955

Dear Bob:

Upon my return to Newport I discovered the invitation which you had sent to me from the Stock Exchange Luncheon Club.

I am very sorry that I didn't get it before, although I couldn't have done anything about it as I was slated to visit Admiral Conolly and did not arrive there until 1500.

It was very nice to see you and to note that the pressure of Eisenhower's illness and the fall of the market had in no way diminished your "elan".

I hope that I shall see you long before the next Global Strategy period.

I thought that the Navy League dinner was excellently conducted and, very frankly, I enjoyed it.

I am addressing this letter to the Stock Exchange Luncheon Club, where I presume you will get it. Meanwhile, let me give you a joke (to regale to the boys):

Apparently, President Lincoln was having difficulty in finding proper Generals and, so, after many unhappy experiences, he reached out into the West and produced General Pope (or Hallack). General Pope, desiring to show great activity, issued his orders as follows: "Headquarters of the Potomac, in the saddle." When Lincoln received one of these orders, he is reputed to have remarked, "What a curious thing! General Pope has his headquarters where most people have their hindquarters!"

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October 26, 1955

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. Robert Proddow
c/o The Stock Exchange
Luncheon Club
New York, N.Y.

0751

27 October 1955

Dear Draper,

It was nice to see you the other night at the Navy League Banquet. I was glad to see that you were looking well and thoroughly enjoying yourself. Clearly the Under Secretary is a fine man to serve with. I feel better for the Navy every time I see or hear him.

I am interested in getting a copy of the speech he gave at the Banquet. I had hoped to see it in the newspaper but I did not see it anywhere. I thought it excellent, but I must add that I did not hear all of it, because the acoustics around the Upper Dais were not too good. I thought the Banquet was well handled and my "roast beef" delicious. I hope that you fellows "below the SALT" were equally well served.

I will drop in to see you when in Washington next week.

Best regards, as ever,

Your old friend

R. W. BATES

Captain D. L. Kauffman
Aide to the Under Secretary of the Navy
Room 4E 664, Pentagon
Navy Department
Washington 25, D. C.

0752

October 28, 1955

The A.N. Marquis Co.
Marquis Publications Bldg.
Chicago 11, Illinois

My dear Miss Scott:

I was a little bit surprised to receive your letter of October 25th, wherein you state that a copy of "Who's Who in America", Volume 28, has arrived in your Receiving Room from me.

Sometime ago you asked that we send you these spare copies. I wasn't able to locate mine until the other day and I sent it in expecting, of course, that you would know exactly why it had been sent. I thought that possibly you desired these to send to those people who were "shy" such a volume.

I hope that this clears up the matter, but if it doesn't and if you have no need for the volume, please send it back and I will give it to someone.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral
U.S. Navy(Ret)

0753

7 November 1955

Dear Bob:

This is a short note to say how much I enjoyed seeing you, even if for only a short time. I have always felt that you are one of the officers who is slated for even higher command, and I like to think that we are working with you.

I have always felt that your office has had an understanding attitude toward my office as well as toward the Naval War College, and that you have never permitted our problems here to become big ones. This is extremely gratifying.

I am hoping tonight to have those ducks I spoke of at dinner with Admiral McCormick. I gave them to him with the proviso that I be invited.

I certainly hope that your success in "duckshoots" will be equal to that in your naval career. If it is, the ducks will be most unhappy!

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Vice Admiral R. P. Briscoe, USN
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations
Navy Department
Washington 25, D.C.

0754

7 November 1955

Dear Frank:

I certainly enjoyed being your guest at dinner and to have seen how well you are established, not only in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations, but also in the local community wherein you reside.

I liked very much meeting Mrs. Lee. She certainly is an attractive woman. I have asked many people already about her and all of them know her and speak of her with great affection.

It was very thoughtful of you to have me to have dinner. I appreciated ~~the~~ long car ride that you took in order to get me home and to take me to the Lees'. I am not unmindful of the load this placed upon you. You are a good sport!

With best regards to you and Nina, I am,
as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Captain Frank L. Johnson, USN
Room 4E559, Strategic Plans Div.
OpNav, Navy Department
Washington 25, D.C.

0755

7 November 1955

Dear Admiral Bruton:

Admiral Earle came over to see me on Friday and I gave him the papers on the telephone system which you had given to me for this purpose. He is very pleased.

We feel that the whole thing makes good sense because the local telephone company is about to shift from the old style to the dial system of calling. Why not accomplish both things at once; i.e., to set it up at the Naval Base the dial system at the same time that the city's is being set up.

I know that all of us here appreciate not only your interest in this matter, but also the promptness with which your command pushed the papers through the Navy Department once you had found its importance to this area.

I certainly enjoyed talking to you about Hawaii and about my work with the Shore Patrol there. On that duty I received two fitness reports headed "conspicuous service", from Admiral Yates Sterling. I likewise was supposed to receive a letter of commendation from the Department of Justice. As a result of all of this, I nearly lost my naval career. This is an example of how politics works among weak-minded people. I think that the Admirals who allowed themselves to be convinced that the naval conduct in Hawaii was bad, showed poor judgement themselves.

With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral Henry C. Bruton, USN
Director, Naval Communications
Navy Department
Washington 25, D.C.

0756

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : President, NWC

DATE: 10 Nov 1955

FROM : Como Bates

SUBJECT: "The Twelfth Night" Club

1. "The Twelfth Night" Club is very nice. It numbers about twenty-four members and has a King and Queen. I have been there twice; once, as a guest of Mr. William Grosvenor, the other, as a guest of Mr. Kenneth McCall. The clubrooms are over the firehouse, but are quite nice. The luncheons are always excellent.

2. Admiral Robbins is absolutely right. A few words are expected; probably in this case, if all three went, from Admiral McCormick only, although I wouldn't bet on that.

3. I think that John Nicholas Brown is a member as well as other people that you know. My opinion is that a visit a little later, probably early December, would be better than one at the present moment. In other words, it would be nicer to wait for a possible full turnout than to visit with only a half or a two-thirds turnout, as I have encountered.

0757

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DATE:

FROM :

SUBJECT:

4. I shall be happy to go along when you go, if you accept.

R. W. BATES

0758

10 November 1955

Dear Admiral Knickerbocker:

By the time that you receive this note, the Armistice Day holidays will be over and you should be in a good mood. I don't wish to destroy this mood, but I am about to if you have any deep interest in your Officers' Uniform Shop.

As you know, I obtained a suit from the Officers' Uniform Shop after six months of laborious work and constant objections to the product which the Shop was endeavoring to have me accept.

I finally had to take the suit, even though it wasn't entirely satisfactory, because I had nothing else to wear. I told the tailor who brought it in to me about this.

As a whole, the uniform presents a pretty creditable appearance, but, when we get into particulars, it is sadly lacking. I don't believe that I have worn this uniform more than a total of three weeks over a period of time. However, when I was in Washington last week, the top button on the right hand side came off and the button on the inside came off. Fortunately, there was a tailor in my club or else I would have been in a rather serious way as my time was limited and I could not have been out of uniform.

I now note that the gold braid, particularly that on my left sleeve, is fraying. I don't know whence came this gold braid but if this is an example of modern products God help us!

The manner in which the front (of the coat) bulges is still unsatisfactory, but I can tolerate this; but I cannot tolerate the other items.

Someday, when you have a representative in this area, I would like to show him the deficiencies in this uniform.

With the hope that I haven't upset you too much, and with the further hope that these matters will be looked into so that they won't occur to other people, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral W. L. Knickerbocker, USN
Commander, Naval Supply Activities
New York, N.Y.

0759

11 November 1955

Dear Colonel Delano:

Since we have a nice damp Veterans Day morning I am seizing the opportunity thus afforded to thank you and through you the other Marine Officers, who were hosts, for your kindness in including me as one of your guests at the Marine Corps birthday dinner last night. As always, the whole affair was beautifully handled and I am sure was not only enjoyed by those honored to be there but also was a source of inspiration to them.

I thought that your novation from the program of past years in having the officer escort for the colors precede the colors rather than march in with them was an interesting change. I think that my comment of last year is equally applicable here, "the smart manner with which the colors were marched in, the snappy officer escort with their full dress blues and sabers, the clanking of the many large medals worn by the escort, gave a fine indication to the happy guests of what it means to a Marine to be a Marine".

I enjoyed your reading of both the fundamental order for Marine Corps birthdays as well as the Commandant's message to the Corps. The latter message moved me quite a lot as it, in effect, was not only a birthday greeting but also in a sense a farewell greeting as this is General Shepherd's last Marine Corps birthday party as an active Marine.

I think that everyone was impressed with the birthday cake. It looked well and tasted even better.

I am sure that these birthday parties do a lot of good. They not only cement the members of the Corps but, in their small way, they contribute toward that great fighting spirit which on many battlefields has earned the motto "Semper Fidelis".

With many thanks, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Colonel L.H. Delano, USMC
Naval War College
Newport, R.I.

0760

14 November 1955

Dear Lem:

Last night I had the good fortune to have been included as a guest at the Marine Corps birthday party held here at the Commissioned Officers Mess (Open).

In broad outline, the party was very similar to that of last year with almost all of the participants changed. I was a little bit surprised at this but I should not have been for officers in the services are constantly being assigned to new stations. Last year Colonel Freuler was the senior Marine officer - this year it was Colonel Delano.

The principal guests this time were Vice Admiral and Mrs. Lynde McCormick (President of the Naval War College), Rear Admiral and Mrs. T.H. Robbins (Chief of Staff, Naval War College), and Rear Admiral and Mrs. Ralph Earle (Commander Naval Base). I understand that there were a total of 103 Marines and guests present which equalled last year.

After the cocktail party the ceremonies incident to the day occurred. The guests gathered around the large birthday cake which was iced in the red and yellow of the Marine Corps and then - and this was a novation from last year - ten Marine officers in full dress blue with sabers came clanking in two by two, not together but each pair at a distance of some five spaces. I say clanking advisedly for these officers wore so many large medals that they could be heard clearly at a reasonable distance. After this the color guard of four enlisted Marines entered, and passed between the above ten officers.

Then the National Anthem and the Marine Corps anthem were played. Following this Colonel Delano read both the Marine Corps basic order for the day and your fine birthday message. Then Colonel Delano cut a piece of the birthday cake and presented it to Vice Admiral McCormick who delivered a short but pertinent eulogy on the Marine Corps. The Navy takes great pride in that Corps!

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14 November 1955

The cake was a dandy! Not only was it iced in the red and yellow of the Marine Corps with certain of its more famous battles sugared thereon, but, also, it was delicious. *One of the battles - there was a June 1945 - I met a Japanese officer in Commander KITAMURA - photographing it.*

The dinner was excellent. The main course was roast beef washed down with "vin rose" and I did well with both items. *the dinner*

During this whole affair the portrait of the Commandant of the Marine Corps looked down benignly from the wall. This gave me a form of nostalgia because I realized that this was the last Marine Corps Birthday Dinner with General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. as the Commandant.

With best regards to you, to your staff, and to Mrs. Shepherd, I am,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., USMC
Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps,
U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters,
Washington 25, D.C.

0762

14 November 1955

Dear Al:

You are the most difficult person to locate in the world! I have tried to locate you at your new office at 33 West 67th Street by telephone but to no avail. In fact, the telephone company assures me that if there is an Albert Murray at that address he has no telephone.

I am writing you, therefore, instead of telephoning, to see if we cannot make some arrangement with you for the portrait of Admiral McCormick. The reason for this is that there is another artist who is making every effort to get this assignment. He may be pretty good - that I do not know - but I do know that you are damn good and that you have been our choice all the time.

It seems to me that the only way in which we can have you "signed, sealed and delivered" is for you to make a commitment in this regard.

As I told you before, we are very anxious to have your paintings on display in the War College. We have none - not even Admiral Spruance's which you did here. In fact, I saw this painting in Washington at the Pentagon the other day and was more than ever impressed by its quality. I also think that the one you did of Admiral Turner was extraordinary. I should have liked Admiral Oldendorf in a little more active role but it is quite clear that it is Oldendorf and I feel rather pleased with the picture.

Whether you know it or not, there is a display of the wartime paintings of the various commanders and of several battle scenes hanging in the Pentagon, commencing at the Secretary of the Navy's office. As a matter of fact, I noticed the painting of the Secretary of the Navy. I personally think that it is excellent. I would say that he was somewhat difficult to paint but you have clearly "pinpointed" him on your canvas.

I am going to have to write a reply to the artist I referred to in the beginning of this letter and I would like to say, if I could, that you had accepted this appointment. As a matter of fact, you have accepted it - long ago you agreed to do the painting but said that it would have to fit in with your schedule. We

0763

14 November 1955

were agreeable but we would like to designate the time in order to stop further pressures from other artists. It clearly is an honor to have a portrait done by an artist of your consequence in the Naval War College.

I should appreciate your calling me immediately on receipt of this letter or, at the very least, to write me a letter confirming anything you feel you can confirm.

With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Albert Murray
33 West 67th Street
New York, N.Y.

0764

14 November 1955

Dear Von:

It was nice to see you at the Alumni meeting at Annapolis and to hear from you that you were going to continue your pre-game luncheons. I therefore was not surprised but was very pleased to receive an invitation from you to attend the luncheon preceding the Army-Navy football game. I pointed out to you before that I had been attending these with four commandants in succession and, believe it or not, I haven't missed one Army-Navy game since the war.

I am now in the same sort of quandary that I was in before but, mindful of your kindness to me heretofore, I am taking the liberty of telling you that I am to be the guest of Mrs. Axel Jonsson, of 237 Cheswold Hill Road, Haverford, Pa., and I should like very much to bring her, with her daughter and son-in-law, to this luncheon. Last year, at the last moment, Mrs. Jonsson could not go but her daughter and son-in-law, who is a prominent young lawyer in Philadelphia, and who lives in Gladwyn, Pa., went with me (with your permission).

I always feel that it is an imposition for me to ask to bring someone, but I don't feel that the imposition is as great as heretofore because I noticed how beautifully you handled it last year. For some reason, in previous years with the same number of guests, the place was crowded. However, last year there seemed to be plenty of room and everyone was very happy. I heard very many friendly remarks, as I told you at the time. Organization is a great thing and you seem to have it to a high degree.

I hope everything is going along well with you. I can assure you that things are going along well with me. The Naval War College is in full swing and I think our product is worthy of the labor given by all hands from both the staff and students to accomplish this desired result.

With best regards, with many thanks for your thoughtfulness in sending the invitation, and with hopes that my desire to bring the above guests meets with your approval, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

*RADM E.H. VON HEIMBURG, USN
FOR N.D. PHILA, PA.*

0765

November 14, 1955

Dear Gabrielle and Reggie:

This is a reminder about the Naval War College "cabaret" and the "dinner" I am giving preceding it at the Commissioned Officers Club, Naval Base.

You are requested to assemble not later than 1900 (7 P.M.). No black tie will be worn but, instead, you are requested to wear ordinary street clothes such as would be worn in the late afternoon or evening.

Looking forward to seeing you,
I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES,

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald B. Rives,
Bellevue Avenue
Newport, R.I.

0766

WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA

The A. N. Marquis Company, Volume 28, p. 161

BATES, Richard Waller, naval officer; b. San Francisco, Jan. 16, 1892; s. Henry Lesley Alexander and Rebecca Helen (Rixon) B.; B.S., U.S. Naval Acad., 1915, post grad. student, 1920-21; M.S., Columbia, 1922, student Naval War Coll., 1940-41. Comm'd. ensign, U.S. Navy, 1915, advanced through grades to rear adm., 1949; exec. officer U.S.S. Cincinnati, 1918-19; comdg. officer U.S.S. Buchanan, 1932-33, U.S.S. Ramapo, 1933, U.S.S. Long, 1934-35, U.S.S. Clark, 1938-40, U.S.S. Minneapolis, Pacific waters, 1943-44; on staff Comdr. in Chief, Pacific Fleet, 1944; chief staff Bombardment and Fire Support Group, 3rd Fleet, Palau, 1944, and 7th Fleet, 1944-45, participating in battles Leyte Gulf and Surigao Strait; chief staff Battleship Squadron 1, Lingayen and Okinawa, 1945; comdr. motor torpedo boats Pacific Fleet, 1945; chief staff Philippine Sea Frontier, 1945-46; member staff Naval War Coll., 1942-43, chief of strategy, 1942-43, head of department of analysis, 1946-50, retired for physical disability, 1949, recalled and since on active duty as head of World War II Battle Evaluation Group since July 1949. Decorated Navy Cross, Legion Merit with 2 gold stars, Navy Unit citation, Victory Medal World War I (with star), Mex. Campaign, Yangtze Service, Am. Defense, Am. Area Campaign, Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign (with 10 bronze stars), Philippine Liberation medals, Victory Medal World War II, Episcopalian. Clubs: N.Y. Yacht (N.Y. City); Army-Navy Country, University (Washington); Bohemian (San Francisco); Reading Room, Clambake (Newport, R.I.); Army-Navy (Manila, P.I.). Now engaged in preparation critical analyses of major naval battles of World War II. Home: 12 Mt. Vernon St. Office: Naval War College, Newport, R. I.

Dear Jim:

I am forwarding you the biography of Commodore Bates as found in Who's Who. I am also enclosing the names of more of the officers with whom he was associated at the War College.

The Commodore does not consider that he is an honorary Rear-Admiral.

I am looking forward to receiving the carbon and will phone you Monday probably about 2.00 p.m. if that time is convenient to you.

With personal regards

EARL M. COLLISON
CDR. USNR

James Whelan, United Press
40 Fountain St., Providence, R.I.

0767

November 28, 1955

Dear Von:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I am able to write you this letter. As I told you last year, I have attended many of these parties, or shall we call them pre-game luncheons, and I thought that your last year's luncheon excelled them all. However, your new arrangements this year, especially in regard to providing proper space for clothes, made it even better than last year.

You are a fine host and, needless to say, you handled the whole affair in a very gracious manner, which was noted by your many guests. I want to thank you very much for including Mrs. Jonsson and Mr. and Mrs. Taylor as guests with me. They enjoyed it as much as I did and they appreciated as much as I did the splendid manner with which the whole affair was conducted.

It is important that this type of affair continue. I hope that some day, when you go to another assignment, you will be able to convince the Chief of Naval Operations, and others, that it should be maintained. I do not agree with Babe Brown in his thought that it ought to be suppressed.

I should like to commend to you your aide, LT Elliott, who was very helpful to me. He seems to be an alert aide and very much "on the ball".

With best regards to you and with many thanks for your thoughtfulness, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

RADM E. H. Von Heimburg, USN
Commandant, FOURTH Naval District

0768

November 28, 1955

Dear Elsa and Reggie:

It was very thoughtful of you to include Kitty and myself in your dinner party after the Army-Navy football game on Saturday last.

Needless to say, I enjoyed it very much but, in particular, I enjoyed meeting you both again, and likewise meeting my good friend - your son - Draper and his wife. Yours is a fine family and I admire the way you "hold together" in all directions.

I thought that the dinner was excellent, and I particularly enjoyed the tamale dish which was as good as it was unusual.

It was too bad that Navy lost the game, but no one has a right to win who can't carry the ball over the goal-line. This applies to life, in general, as well as to an ordinary football game. The Army went in there determined to win and had been taught the fundamentals; the Navy went in confident of winning and had not been taught the fundamentals. That is the story!

With best regards to you both, with deep appreciation for your thoughtfulness in having me as a guest, and with hopes that I will see you in the not too distant future, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. J. L. Kauffman
250 So. 18th St.
Philadelphia, Pa.

0769

28 November 1955

Dear Admiral Lonnquest:

Your letter to Admiral Heffernan, relative to the copy of the Battle for Leyte Gulf, Volume II, which you have just received, has been forwarded to me for reply.

In reply, I am sorry to say that this volume is Confidential and will not be easily removed from that classification. The matter has been taken up on several occasions but the Navy Department is becoming even more firm in the concept that it must remain Confidential. Even the Naval War College, which heretofore had been of the opinion that it could be downgraded, i.e., Admiral Spruance, for one, is now of the opinion that it must remain Confidential.

This is unfortunate because it reduces the number of readers. However, there is so much comment on U.S. Navy thought processes, U.S. Navy tactical procedures, etc., and likewise numerous comments on command, that the Navy Department feels it essential to retain the present classification.

I am very appreciative of the fact that you are reading this book for it is quite wonderful for me to learn that an officer, who is an AFDO, is so interested in the operations of the Fleet. I feel that the best AFDO's are properly those who are as familiar with the operations of the Fleet as they are with the technical nature of the equipment which serves the Fleet.

With best regards, and best wishes for the Holiday Season which is fast approaching, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

RADM T. C. Lonnquest, U.S. Navy
U.S. Navy Bureau of Aeronautics
General Representative Central District
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio

0770

C O P Y

18 November 1955

Dear John:

As perhaps you may have understood, I have found a great deal of interest in Naval history. The other day I was very happy to receive a copy of "The Battle for Leyte Gulf", volume II, issued by the U.S. Naval War College, dated 1955, NavPers 92194.

Because of the inconvenience of handling and stowing and such home reading as time permits, I was a little dismayed to find this 1944 story marked "Confidential." Can you tell me whether there is any prospect that this document is likely to be declassified in the reasonably near future?

Best regards,

/s/ T. C. LONNQUEST
RADM, USN

RADM John B. Heffernan
Director of Naval History
Naval History Division
Office of Chief of Naval Operations
Navy Department
Washington 25, D. C.

C O P Y

0771

30 November 1955

Dear Olie:

I can't begin to tell you of how delighted I was to hear from you. I would have replied to your letter earlier but I had to go away for a while, which absence included the Army-Navy football game in Philadelphia. So I am only now able to reply to your welcome letter.

I am afraid that you have misread Hanson Baldwin's comment on my work here with relation to the Battle for Leyte Gulf. What I am working on is the sum total of the various actions which comprised the Battle for Leyte Gulf. I have completed Volume I, which includes the preliminary operations until 0719 October 17th, 1944, when Admiral Struble, with your advance units, appeared off the entrance to Leyte Gulf. This volume covers 508 pages. I have also completed Volume II, which covers the operations from 0719 October 17th until 2400 October 20th (D-day), and covers, in particular, your advance operations in the Leyte Gulf area and the Japanese reactions thereto. This Volume has only been out several weeks. Believe it or not, the advance operations cover about 441 pages.

The reason for these large-sized volumes is that in many places I have found it necessary to go into the operations by minutes rather than by days. Thus far, I have received extraordinarily friendly comments from all sources.

These books, by the way, are critical of command operations -- both positive and negative.

I am now working on Volume III, which will probably include the operations from 2400 October 19th (0000 October 20th) until early morning October 23rd. This volume will cover the operations from the time of the arrival of the amphibious forces into the Leyte area, their landings, and the operations incident thereto.

The reason for the chosen day of October 23rd is because, on the morning of that day the Japanese FIRST Striking Force (Kurita), en route from Brunei Bay to Leyte, was torpedoed by the submarines DACE and DARTER and the TAKAO, among others, was sunk. I hope that this volume will be through by this coming summer.

Volume IV will likely embrace the period from this time (early morning October 23rd) through the three main battles. At present I have one Captain working on the operations of the Main Force (carriers) coming down from Japan, which resulted in the Battle off Cape Engano, and I also have a Captain working

0772

30 November 1955

on Surigao Strait. However, these studies are, in no way, advanced far enough to be of any particular value to you, and will not be completed for some years.

I don't think there is any question but that when our study of the Battle of Surigao Strait is completed, it will very plainly point out that, although the basic orders to defend the gulf came from Admiral Kinkaid, the method of defending it was left entirely to you, and to you alone goes the credit. This is a little bit like the affair between Commodore Schley and Admiral Sampson; there is no question but that Commodore Schley was the tactical commander at the Battle of Santiago. There is also no question but that the strategic commander was Admiral Sampson. Out of this situation arose the great argument. I don't think that there is any argument today because I think that Admiral Kinkaid freely admits that you were the tactical commander.

I am sorry I can't be more helpful to you. I am going to ask for permission to send you Volume II of the Battle for Leyte Gulf, which embraces the operations of your forces there, among others. I don't guarantee that I will be able to obtain approval though, because I have not been allowed to give these books to retired officers. In this connection, Admiral Spruance, who had several copies of the Battle of Midway which I had written and which he had reviewed as President of the Naval War College, was forced to return his copies to the War College.

I must say that I was delighted to hear of your presence in this country. As you know, I have always had a great affection for you and no one appreciates more than I do the honor I had in serving as your Chief of Staff. We had a wonderful time together -- at least I did. Unfortunately, today I view those days with a nostalgia which nothing today can completely fill. When one is part of a team which is accomplishing battle successes, it is difficult not to be pretty happy. I am not saying that I am not happy now, but writing about battles is a lot more difficult than solving them at the time and then fighting in accordance with your own solution. This you know as well as anybody.

You will be interested to know that, when talking to Admiral Halsey in New York sometime ago, he said that he thought that you had made a better record out there than he did. So you cannot feel that you are forgotten although it seems to me that many of the commanders have been.

0773

30 November 1955

I hope that Betty is well. She has been a wonderful wife to you. You are a wonderful couple and I am sure that you are accomplishing as much in giving happiness to your many friends as you were in devastating the enemy.

With best regards, and with hopes that I will be seeing you one of these days, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral J.B. Oldendorf, USN(Ret)
210 Fifty-Sixth Street,
Virginia Beach, Va.

0774

1 December 1955

Dear Golinkin:

A problem was presented to me the other day concerning a young man of the Naval Reserve. In endeavoring to discover to whom I should write I found out that it was to you. This interested me very much because I remembered your success in New York. I presume that you have been sent to Philadelphia to accomplish the same success there. I also remember that Admiral Bergen felt that you were very much 'on the ball'. Here is the problem:

The young man's name is Peter S.P. Altemus and he is a student at the University of Pennsylvania. He has joined the Naval Reserve Division 4-32, which is under the command of LCDR W. E. Miller, USNR. Altemus is very concerned, as is his Mother, because he doesn't seem to be able to get himself 'taken up on the books' as a bonified member of this reserve unit.

I am enclosing a copy of his letter herewith, which will explain his problem. The unit commander apparently does not want him in the unit until he is certain, for example, that he can pass the advancement examination. I don't know what it is all about, but I would appreciate it if you would investigate this situation. If the young man is entitled to recognition, it would be well if you so informed the Commanding Officer involved; if he is not entitled to recognition, I would appreciate it if you would inform me as to what has to be done in this matter.

With best regards and best wishes for the approaching Christmas Season, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy.
Retired

0775

C-O-P-Y

Sunday
November 20

Dear Admiral Bates:

I spoke last week to Lieut. Cdr. W. E. Miller, Commanding Officer, Naval Reserve Division 4-32, my Commanding Officer. He told me more or less what I told you two weeks ago.

Cdr. Miller told me that I was a "liability" to the unit in that I might flunk the advancement exam. He said that if the unit did pick me up on drill pay status, and I did flunk the exam, it would cause the unit to drop two points in national competition. The problem is that I am not eligible for the exam for advancement to Seaman until I take a cruise in rate. However, Cdr. Miller said that if I took my cruise during Christmas vacation (which he would not blame me for not doing) and if I could guarantee that I would pass my advancement exam upon completion of the cruise, then he would put me on drill pay status.

However, Cdr. Miller said that until I did this, there was nothing he could do. He told me that he would like to put me on drill pay status right now, but that his hands were tied (by whom I don't know). He also said that we might have different opinions. I told him, without saying that I had spoken to you, what you had said about training coming before competition, but he didn't make any reply.

As far as I can recall, that is all we said, and everything seems to be quite cut and dried except what he said about having no control over the matter. At any rate, I would be very grateful if you would let me know what you think about it.

Yours truly,

/s/ Peter S.P. Altemus

0776

December 2, 1955

Gentlemen:

Please send one box each of your Gift No. 60 (Capistrano)
to the following addresses:

- ✓ 1. Rear Admiral and Mrs. R. Earle, Jr.
Quarters A, U.S. Naval Station
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 2. Rear Admiral and Mrs. J.C. Daniel
Wellington Avenue
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 3. Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Hill
"Elm Tree Cottage"
336 Gibbs Avenue
Newport, R.I.
4. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Morris ✓
"Malbone", Malbone Road
Newport, R.I.
5. Mr. and Mrs. John H. Millar ✓
Brenton Road
Newport, R.I.
6. Mr. and Mrs. Reginald B. Rives ✓
Bellevue Avenue ✓
Newport, R.I.
7. Rear Admiral and Mrs. C.L. Andrews, Jr.
"Land Fall", Brenton Road
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 8. Mr. and Mrs. G. Bogart Blakely
"Tusitala", Honeyman Hill
Middletown, R.I.
9. Lord and Lady Camoye
"Stonor Lodge", Bellevue Avenue
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 10. Mrs. Guy Fairfax Cary
"Elm Court", Bellevue Avenue
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 11. Commander & Mrs. H.G. Cushing
"The Ledges", Ocean Avenue
Newport, R.I.

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December 2, 1955

12. Mr. and Mrs. C. Mathews Dick
"Clover Patch", Bowery Street
Newport, R.I.
13. Captain and Mrs. A.H. Douglas
58 Kay Street
Newport, R.I.
14. Mr. and Mrs. Barclay Douglas
Ridge Road
Newport, R.I.
15. Mr. and Mrs. James Beck
"Plaisance", Ledge Road
Newport, R.I.
16. Mr. and Mrs. Gurnee Dyer
"Farmlands", RDF 1
Newport, R.I.
17. Mr. and Mrs. Theodore P. Grosvenor
"Wyndham", Beacon Hill Road
Newport, R.I.
18. Mr. and Mrs. William Grosvenor
"Hilltop", Ruggles Avenue
Newport, R.I.
19. Mrs. Edward C. Kalbfus
"Restmere", Miantonomi Avenue
Newport, R.I.
20. Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy King
"Indian Spring", Mooreland Road
Newport, R.I.
21. Commodore and Mrs. H.B. Mecleary
"Twin Beeches", 38 Catherine St.
Newport, R.I.
22. Mrs. Reginald Norman
"Belair", Old Beach Road
Newport, R.I.
23. Mrs. C. Oliver O'Donnell
"Cave Cliff", LeRoy Avenue
Newport, R.I.
24. Major and Mrs. C.D.L. Pepys
"Holly House", Berkeley Avenue
Newport, R.I.
25. Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Phelps
"Slate Hill Farm", Eash Main Road
Newport, R.I.

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December 2, 1955

- ✓ 26. Mr. and Mrs. Ottavio Prochet
"The Waves"
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 27. Mr. and Mrs. Verner Z. Reed, Jr.
"The Orchard", Narragansett Avenue
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 28. Mr. and Mrs. John W. Richmond
"Seaward", Cliff Avenue
Newport, R.I.
- 29. Mrs. Diana Ryan
"Vauchuse Farm"
Newport, R.I.
- 30. Mrs. Harold A. Sands,
155 Rhode Island Avenue
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 31. Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. West
"Lowlands Cottage", Bellevue Avenue
Newport, R.I.
- 32. Mr. Gustave J.S. White
28 Greenough Place
Newport, R.I.
- 33. Mr. and Mrs. Norman O. Whitehouse
"Lansmere", Webster Street
Newport, R.I.
- 34. Mrs. Andrew C. Wilson
"Ayrault House", 45 Catherine St.
Newport, R.I.
- 35. Mrs. Louis Bruguiere
"Wakehurst", Ochre Point
Newport, R.I.
- 36. Rear Admiral and Mrs. Thomas H. Robbins, Jr.
Quarters 1, Fort Adams
Newport, R.I.
- 37. Vice Admiral and Mrs. Lynde D. McCormick
The President's House, U.S. Naval Station
Newport, R.I.
- 38. Captain and Mrs. H.M.S. Gimber, Jr.
66 Kay Street
Newport, R.I.
- 39. Captain and Mrs. Jack C. Titus,
233 Tuckerman Avenue,
Middletown, R.I.

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December 2, 1955

40. Commander and Mrs. Elmar S. Waring, Jr.
"Bandbox", Friendship Street
Jamestown, R.I.
41. Commander and Mrs. Joseph C. Zirkle
44D Brenton Village
Fort Adams
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 42. Chief Quartermaster and Mrs. S.T. Trembath
103 Champlin Place
Newport, R.I.
43. Yeoman First Class and Mrs. L.J. Baeringer
120 D Niagara Street
Middletown, R.I.
44. Yeoman First Class and Mrs. D. Pfefferkorn
137 A Admiral Luce Street
Middletown, R.I.
45. Yeoman Second Class Otis R. Wheeler
U.S. Naval War College
Newport, R.I.

Please place with each gift one of the enclosed Christmas Cards.

A check for \$ to cover the purchase of the above
forty- gift boxes is enclosed.

Yours very truly,

R. W. BATES,
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Retired

*PASA DEL ORO RANCHO
P.O. Box 1064
MODESTO, CALIF*

5 December 1955

Dear Jack:

It was a great disappointment to me to note that I was unable to see you at the Army-Navy football game. I saw Admiral Burke at the Commandant's pre-game luncheon and had a short chat with him in which your name came up. Needless to say, he spoke in a very friendly way about you, so I imagine that you will be just as friendly with him in the end as you are with Mick Carney.

Arleigh said that he expected to see me in your box later and I replied that I expected to be there. Between halves and in accordance with this concept, I moved down the aisle and tried to get to your box but was unable to do so for various reasons; in particular, because the crowd pushed me out onto the field where I looked for you with no success. I asked a policeman to point out your box but even then I not only could not get there but I couldn't even see you. What were you doing?

I eventually returned to my own seat, but the game had already started. I am telling you about this in detail because I don't want you to feel that I broke my word. It just happened that the mass of humanity was so great that it was impossible for anyone to move into a box such as yours in the limited time available between halves.

The game was alright. However, no team that doesn't know the fundamentals can show any consistency in winning. I have pointed out this fact repeatedly, and I have spoken to Babe Brown, the present President of the Football Hall of Fame, on the subject, but the Navy still does not know the fundamentals adequately. Knowledge of the fundamentals of warfare is vital. This applies to a Commander in the field as well as to a football team. Where battles are fought in accordance with an understanding of fundamentals the number of criticisms of command become less and less. It is for that reason that I have insisted that the senior officers should be educated adequately and that only a limited few who have not taken courses at the Naval War College or at an equally competent college should be promoted to flag rank. Unfortunately, many of our present top commanders have never taken such courses, and this includes Admirals Radford, Carney and Burke. Fortunately (a) Carney and Burke obtained plenty of training in the field as Chiefs of Staff of large combatant forces, and both of them received considerable training later on; one, as Chief of Logistics, the other in charge of Strategy and Tactics, and (b) Admiral Radford received adequate training for his present assignment in the four years he was Commander-in-Chief

0781

5 December 1955

of the Pacific Fleet as he appears to be doing very well indeed.

Since I have finished the film of the Battle of Savo Island in New York, I won't be coming down there as often as I used to, so I will have to see you from afar.

With best regards to you, with many thanks for your thoughtfulnesses over the years, and, finally, for the check for the two tickets, which check I have accepted reluctantly, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral John J. Bergen, USNR
40 Wall Street
New York, N.Y.

0782

December 5, 1955

Dear Liz and Bodie:

It was very nice to see you down there in the Philadelphia area at the Army-Navy football game. I was particularly happy to see that you were all well and that your children seemed to be growing steadily into charming young ladies. It is a difficult job these days to develop children along the sound lines in which your children seem to be progressing, so I congratulate you on what you have accomplished.

I was sorry about the game turning out the way it did, but it cannot be helped. Anyone who cannot keep money won't get rich, and anyone who cannot hold a ball won't score; it's as simple as that. You will remember my telling you over the years of the failure of the Navy to coach their people in the fundamentals, and here it showed up in extraordinary style. Whether the boys at Annapolis will profit from this, I do not know, but if they don't they ought to get their you-know-what kicked!

I have written to everybody down there, including your Mother. I didn't do so entirely out of courtesy, but because everyone was very nice and I appreciated it very much indeed.

I want to thank you, Liz, for taking me to see Canon McColl. I think his St. Thomas's church is fine, his land area very large, his future very bright. I spoke to Canon Ballard about it yesterday and he seemed to be very interested indeed. Canon McColl has great admiration for Canon Ballard and I feel that Canon Ballard returns it. By the way, Canon Ballard gave us a lecture rather than a sermon at Trinity Church last Sunday on the reasons for the new Bible. It was a most interesting and highly intellectual discussion,

0783

December 5, 1955

and all of us were gratified that we were present. He says that the true Bible is the new one, but that the new one is written in ordinary English rather than in the sonorous language of the King James version, and therefore the church was going to use the new Bible in Sunday School, and for home reading, but, in reading the lessons in church, the King James version would always be used.

I want to thank you, Bodie, for taking me to the railroad station and for looking out for me as well as you did. If I had been a Commander-in-Chief, I couldn't have asked for a better Aide! You are a helluva nice fellow! I look forward to seeing you up here presently. Meanwhile, I shall see Harriet and Hank and tell them of our experiences down there. Harriet is not going out because of the loss of her Father, but she is very anxious to hear news of you both. Here's hope that all goes well with you. Keep me informed as to when you expect to arrive in this area.

With best regards and many thanks, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Taylor, Jr.
Monk Road
Gladwyne, Pa.

0784

December 14, 1955

Dear Charlie:

About a month ago I received a bill from you relative to the flowers I ordered during the summer for delivery in August.

As I wrote you at the time, most of the flowers failed to arrive in time; in fact, two days late. In particular, the Picaci lei for Mrs. Auchincloss, although arriving in time, was brown instead of white.

If you will remember, I questioned your ability to get these flowers to Newport on time, but you said that the system was so well developed that they couldn't miss. Well, you did miss, for the reasons mentioned in one of my letters to you.

I therefore feel that this charge is overmuch and I request a reduction in the bill because of the failure of the flowers to arrive in time, and because, in the case of the Picaci lei, of the failure to arrive in healthy condition.

My association with you over the years has been so fine that I feel that you, yourself, are not familiar with the fact that this bill has been sent out under these conditions. I will be in Calif. some days before Christmas at which time I will drop in to see you about this.

What kind of Christmas is this for me?

With best regards, and with best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Mr. Charles Lagasimo

0785

16 December 1955

Dear Roger:

I have ^{two} orders I wish to place with you for Christmas gifts, ~~and one for myself~~ which I hope you will see fit to handle for me.

First, I would like you to choose a silver Christmas gift (something similar to that of last year but, of course, different) for Admiral and Mrs. R.L. Conolly, (Ret), and which is to be sent to the following address:

President, Long Island University
385 Flatbush Avenue Extension
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Second, I would like a similar but different gift for Admiral and Mrs. Lynde D. McCormick, to be sent to the following address: ^{T.N. McCormick}

President's House,
U.S. Naval Station
Newport, R.I.

Thirdly, and most important, I won the Boccie Championship of the Newport Reading Room this year, and have been given the money to obtain a proper prize for myself. Will you choose a suitable "prize" worth about \$25, and place thereon an engraving somewhat like the following: "To Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, U.S. Navy (Retired), Boccie Champion, 1955, Newport Reading Room". I leave the manner and location of this inscription entirely to your good judgement.

I hope that Christmas and the New Year will be all that you hope for. I'm en route to California for about one week.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

GDR Roger H. Hallowell, USNR
Reed and Barton Company
Taunton, Mass.

0786

16 December 1955

Dear Old Swede:

I received your Christmas card with a great deal of interest and felt a little embarrassed that I hadn't written you since the famous meeting at Annapolis.

Very frankly, I wrote to Roy Horn and told him that I was very unhappy that he had taken you and Ibby in as guests at his house, because this automatically deprived your friends of the privilege of seeing you. In other words, the people that you were most likely to see were Roy's friends rather than yours.

However, when I did see you for the short time that I did, I thought you looked very well and you also looked as though the "trial" of the class reunion was not affecting you in an unsatisfactory manner.

I am enclosing herewith a clipping from the Fall River Herald, although it was published in many papers throughout the country. Most of the newspapers published it word for word, and others "editorialized" on it as well. Needless to say, I was quite concerned about this writeup -- I knew it was about to occur because the United Press Association told me so, and I refused to allow myself to be interrogated; however, I was advised later that it would be best to permit them to do so or otherwise they would publish something anyway. So I agreed, and this is the result.

I hope that Buddy and her husband are in good shape. I know that you will enjoy seeing her. I know also that you were concerned about her husband resigning from the Navy, but it may be that, in the end, as long as they are happy and their children grow up not too much in favor of West Point (which is nearby) all will be well. It's too bad Alice won't be there but I suppose Scrappy has some rights!!

I had lunch with your very great friend, Dr. Frazer. He is a very high type fellow, well thought of here and has a great affection for you and for your family. High types such as he are great assets to the Naval War College.

0787

16 December 1955

You are quite right -- I am en route to California. I plan to leave on the 21st and return a week later, but I cannot definitely say when.

I am in quite a rush so I will have to shorten this letter.

With thanks again for your Christmas card, and with best wishes to you and yours for a very merry Christmas and an unusually happy New Year, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Captain Edward E. Hazlett, USN(Ret)
1001 Dawes Street,
Chapel Hill, N.C.

0788

20 December 1955

Dear Admiral Romoser:

I understand that the selection board for reserve officers, which is considering officers for promotion to Captain, will be convened on January 10th.

I am, therefore, seizing the opportunity of inviting your attention to the case of one reserve officer from San Francisco, Commander James J. Sullivan.

This officer is known generally as J. Joseph Sullivan and Joe Sullivan. He is extremely capable, served as intelligence officer for Admiral Oldendorf during the latter years of the war, and has been instructing in intelligence work and other matters in the San Francisco area since the war.

He is a repeated visitor at the Naval War College as a guest of the President of the War College, i.e., both Admirals Conolly and McCormick, and has been invited again this year, as he contributes a great deal toward the Global Strategy Discussions.

He is a National Director of the Navy League and has been doing a great deal of good in California. His most recent guest speaker was the Secretary of the Navy.

I am inviting your attention to him primarily because of the possible confusion that may arise before a selection board over the names, James J. Sullivan, J. Joseph Sullivan, or Joe Sullivan. It would be too bad if he lost out in his promotion because of a lack of understanding of the fact that all of the above are one and the same.

If I can do anything more in this matter, you have but to command me.

With best regards and with best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral W.K. Romoser, USN
ACNO, (Naval Reserve)
Navy Department
Washington 25, D.C.

0789

20 December 1955

Dear Helen and Dick:

Today Jack Bergen called me and I was very delighted to discover that, despite the newspapers, you and your university had succeeded in receiving roughly some \$400,000 from the Ford Foundation.

What a relief this must have been to you, and what a Christmas present to you both!

Jack also said that you had done a remarkable job in succeeding in having your university accredited. I am a little mad that you didn't let me know about this before because I feel that my interest in your success is almost as great as your own.

I am sorry that I haven't seen or heard from you for some time, but I haven't been to New York. I have finished the film "Battle of Savo Island", and, therefore, I have nothing to go to New York for except on rather rare occasions.

I am en route tomorrow morning for California where I will stay about one week. Therefore, I am writing this letter to wish both of you a very merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. You are an old friend of mine and I am quite anxious that things shall always go well with you.

I am sending you a Christmas present - nothing very remarkable, but I hope that you will like what it is. It will come from Taunton, Mass.

I am making this letter very short because Dr. Field is in my office and I have matters I want to discuss with him, but nothing can take priority over my Yuletide greetings to you both.

With best regards to your whole family, and with best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a very happy New Year, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral and Mrs. R.L. Conolly,
President, Long Island University,
385 Flatbush Avenue
Brooklyn 1, N.Y.

0790

December 29, 1955

Dear Joe:

This is an urgent letter.

As you will note from Admiral Romoser, the letter I wrote (copy enclosed), will be placed in your jacket before the selection board. If anything in this letter is incorrect please advise immediately.

Thank you for your help in getting me to the airport. You were as always a friend in need.

I loved seeing you. My family were duly impressed with you and your Mrs. Also your daughter (Judy?) is wonderful.

My flight, owing to engine trouble, was delayed some nine hours. Too bad!

Best wishes for the new year. As ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Enclosures: (a) ^{Copy of} Letter from Commodore Bates to Rear Admiral Romoser.

(b) Copy of Admiral Romoser's reply.

Commander James J. Sullivan, USNP
314 San Leandro Way
San Francisco, California

(Petyped)

0791

December 30, 1955

Dear Jack:

It was wonderful to see you in New York. As you know I have always enjoyed my friendship with you and I have always appreciated the fact that you never forget me. That luncheon yesterday was a case in point.

I have checked the list for Global Strategy and I am informed that you will be invited but no invitations have been issued as yet. The question of Giles Stedman will be referred to Admiral McCormick upon his return from Florida.

Thanks for the neckties!

Best to you and yours for the New Year. In haste,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral John J. Bergen, USNR
40 Wall Street
New York, N. Y.

0792

December 30, 1955

Reverend James MacColl
St. Thomas' Church
Whitewash
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Jimmy (Canon MacColl):

Thank you for your Christmas card. T'was nice to receive it from such a fine and old friend.

I have just returned from California where, despite the floods, I had an enjoyable four day holiday with my brothers.

Canon Ballard was quite interested in my comments about you and your Church. All friendly, of course.

I attended Christmas service in Grace Cathedral, San Francisco (program enclosed). T'was excellent. ^{the}Suffragan Bishop (Shires) is an old friend of my family.

Best to you and yours for the New Year. As ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

0793

December 30, 1955

Dear Dr. Kemp:

I was in Washington on Tuesday and went to the University Club for a few hours before proceeding to New York. There the waitress -- blonde -- and Dr. Lamb told me that you were in the hospital with an eye operation. I knew that it was about to occur because you had discussed the matter with me, but it was a surprise nevertheless.

I hope that your eye will be much improved and that you will be able to see the "girls" a little better than heretofore.

With best wishes for a Happy New Year, I am,

Yours sincerely,

R. W. BATES

Dr. Wallace Kemp
Episcopal Hospital
15th Street (NW) between L and M
Washington, D. C.

0794